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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,247	06/07/2001	Pieter Jan Stappers	7238/0J393	2263
7590 01/02/2004 DARBY & DARBY P.C.			EXAMINER	
			ROSWELL, MICHAEL	
805 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ŕ			2173	
			DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004	5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary		Application No.	Applicant(s)			
		09/879,247	STAPPERS, PIETER JAN			
		Examiner	Art Unit			
		Michael Roswell	2173			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
THE - Exte after - If the - If NC - Failu - Any - eame	ORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPI MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Insions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. It period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period reto reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by stature ply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	136(a). In no event, however, may a reply oly within the statutory minimum of thirty (3 I will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTH: te, cause the application to become ABAN	y be timely filed 60) days will be considered timely. S from the mailing date of this communication. DONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status 1\⊠	Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 i</u>	November 2001				
· _						
	a) This action is FINAL . 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims						
4)⊠ Claim(s) <i>1-8</i> is/are pending in the application.						
,—	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.						
6)🖂	6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-8</u> is/are rejected.					
7)	Claim(s) is/are objected to.					
8)[Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/	or election requirement.				
Application Papers						
9)[The specification is objected to by the Examin	er.				
10)⊠	10)⊠ The drawing(s) filed on <u>07 June 2001</u> is/are: a)⊠ accepted or b)□ objected to by the Examiner.					
	Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).					
_	Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).					
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78. a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received. 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78. 						
Attachmen	t(s)					
2) Notic	ce of References Cited (PTO-892) ce of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) mation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s)	5) 🔲 Notice of Infor	nmary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) mal Patent Application (PTO-152)			

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

- 2. As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:
 - (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
 - (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
 - (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
 - (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a).

"Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)

- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

Application/Control Number: 09/879,247 Page 3

Art Unit: 2173

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: misspelling of the word "displayed" in line 4. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: the claim recites, "the remaining displayed icons" but fails to describe the function of the icons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 7. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacCuish (SPIE, 1/29/1996, v. 2656, pp. 104-115) and Tachibana et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,053).
- 8. In regards to claims 1, 2, 5, and 6, Applicant has disclosed the layout mechanism of MacCuish as being an electronic database search engine with an electronic memory

Art Unit: 2173

device suitable for storing and releasing elements from the database, a display unit, a user interface for the selection and control of elements on the display unit, and iconic interface control means where icons are at mutual distances from one another depending on degrees of dissimilarity. MacCuish's method and device display some icons on the display unit at initial utilization.

- 9. MacCuish fails to teach the use of the control means to select an arbitrary position on the display unit that upon selection displays or removes an icon related to a database element where its degree of dissimilarity to other icons corresponds with the distances between the icons. MacCuish also fails to teach the mutual positioning of icons on the display in concurrence with the dissimilarity of the elements from the database in order to optimize the usable display area on the display unit.
- 10. Tachibana et al do teach the use of the control means to select an arbitrary position on the display unit that upon selection displays or removes an icon related to a database element where its degree of dissimilarity to other icons corresponds with the distances between the icons. (Column 2, Lines 42-52) and the mutual positioning of icons on the display in concurrence with the dissimilarity of the elements from the database in order to optimize the usable display area on the display unit (Column 1, Lines 1-5).
- 11. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of MacCuish and Tachibana et al to obtain an electronic database search engine with iconic display wherein correlated

Page 4

Art Unit: 2173

icons are separated at distances based on their dissimilarity and are spaced as to optimize the usable display area on the display unit.

- 12. The motivation for such a combination is given by Tachibana et al, who state "the present invention relates to a system for monitoring objects and the correlation between the objects on a map showing the correlation between objects" (Column 1, Lines 9-11).
- 13. In regards to claims 3 and 7, Applicant has disclosed the layout mechanism of MacCuish as being an electronic database search engine with an electronic memory device suitable for storing and releasing elements from the database, a display unit, a user interface for the selection and control of elements on the display unit, and iconic interface control means where icons are at mutual distances from one another depending on degrees of dissimilarity. MacCuish's method and device display some icons on the display unit at initial utilization. Tachibana et al teach the use of the control means to select an arbitrary position on the display unit that upon selection displays or removes an icon related to a database element where its degree of dissimilarity to other icons corresponds with the distances between the icons.
- 14. MacCuish fails to disclose a means for placing an icon in the center of the display unit, while the remaining displayed icons are grouped around the centered icon.
- 15. Tachibana et al disclose a means for placing an icon in the center of the display unit, while the remaining displayed icons are grouped around the centered icon (Column 16, Lines 62-67 and Column 17, Lines 1-4).

Page 5

Art Unit: 2173

- 16. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of MacCuish and Tachibana et al to obtain an electronic database search engine with iconic display wherein correlated icons are separated at distances based on their dissimilarity, where an icon may be centered on the display unit, while the remaining displayed icons are grouped around the centered icon.
- 17. The motivation for such a combination is given by Tachibana et al, who state "the present invention relates to a system for monitoring objects and the correlation between the objects on a map showing the correlation between objects" (Column 1, Lines 9-11).
- 18. In regards to claims 4 and 8, Applicant has disclosed the layout mechanism of MacCuish as being an electronic database search engine with an electronic memory device suitable for storing and releasing elements from the database, a display unit, a user interface for the selection and control of elements on the display unit, and iconic interface control means where icons are at mutual distances from one another depending on degrees of dissimilarity. MacCuish's method and device display some icons on the display unit at initial utilization. Tachibana et al teach the use of the control means to select an arbitrary position on the display unit that upon selection displays or removes an icon related to a database element where its degree of dissimilarity to other icons corresponds with the distances between the icons.
- 19. MacCuish fails to teach the addition of characteristics involved in determining an element's degree of dissimilarity, and the assessment of the dissimilarities is adjustable.

Page 6

Art Unit: 2173

- 20. Tachibana et al do teach the addition of characteristics involved in determining an element's degree of dissimilarity (Column 16, Lines 5-9) and adjustable assessment of the dissimilarities of elements (Column 17, Lines 42-46).
- 21. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of MacCuish and Tachibana et al to obtain an electronic database search engine with iconic display wherein correlated icons are separated at distances based on their dissimilarity, where the addition of characteristics involved in determining an element's degree of dissimilarity, and the assessment of the dissimilarities is adjustable.
- 22. The motivation for such a combination is given by Tachibana et al, who state "the present invention relates to a system for monitoring objects and the correlation between the objects on a map showing the correlation between objects" (Column 1, Lines 9-11).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-5914. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 703-308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-9731.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5484.

Page 8

12/22/2003

Michael Roswell

RAYMOND J. BAYERL PRIMARY EXAMINER ART UNIT 2173